



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples, and bring Christ to people.

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**Remember
in your
prayers
those
struggling
with the
wildfires in
California**

**God is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present help
in distress.**

— Psalm 46:1

October, 22, 2017

Render Unto Caesar

How many times have we heard the expression, “Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and render unto God that which is God’s”? Today’s Gospel gives us the origin of that phrase.

The Pharisees, who have been attempting to trap Jesus for some time, have joined forces with some of their opponents, the Herodians, to pose a tricky question: Is it lawful to pay the census tax? Since the Pharisees didn’t believe it was lawful and the Herodians did, no matter what Jesus answered, someone was bound to be angered.

Jesus’ answer shows his acumen and wisdom. Instead of giving a direct reply, he first calls out the Pharisees for trying to trap him. He understands their motive is to find a reason to kill him, and he lets them know that he recognizes that. Then he very carefully gives the reply we are familiar with, saying that some things belong to God and some things belong to Caesar. It is our responsibility to see the difference and respond accordingly.

This can be quite the challenge for us who live today in an increasingly secularized world. Many want to see how far they can push the limits and have us render unto Caesar that which belongs rightly to God. We must be ready for the test and continue to render unto God that which is God’s while still being actively engaged in the secular domain with the good news of the Gospel. Not an easy task by any means, and one that can be accomplished only with the grace of God himself.

First Reading Reflection: Isaiah 45:1, 4–6

In this new exodus, which is going to be effected by a non-Jew, we see a foreshadowing of God’s plan in Christ. Through Isaiah, God states his purpose in using Cyrus: “That toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me.” We see Cyrus as a sign by which all nations will come to



know God, though Cyrus himself hadn’t known him. The implication is that those who’ve known God in a special way, that is Israel, have been bypassed so that God’s universal plan of covenantal love might proceed on course.

The irony is that it’s precisely because of this chastening that Israel will become the fit instrument to receive the true Messiah in the years to come. Is it he who will call all nations into the renewed covenantal family of God with the pronouncement, “Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ” (John 17:3).

Second Reading Reflection 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b

Paul enjoyed a considerable success in Thessalonica, which would’ve been a prosperous town enjoying a heavy flow of traffic by land and sea. It was a bustling seaport and likewise located on the main road east out of Rome. Judging from the content of the letter, Paul’s early success in preaching the Gospel there hadn’t dissipated after his forced exit by some members of the town’s Jewish population who opposed his teaching. The letter is quite praiseworthy toward the Thessalonian Christians, with the only apparent need for doctrinal correction coming in regard to the return or Second Coming of Christ. In fact, Paul says explicitly, “But concerning love of the brethren you have no need to have any one write to you” (4:9).

This week we get only a salutation and an initial commendation for “endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ.” However, Paul confesses something that only he could know: that in some measure, the Thessalonians were “chosen” by God to receive a particularly powerful message from St. Paul. His preaching must have been anointed, given the outcome of firm faith borne in these steadfast Christians.

Gospel Reflection Matthew 22:15–21

his reading represents a turn of the Jewish authorities from defense to offense. The extent of their ire is demonstrated in that the Pharisees and Herodians team up on Jesus in this passage. These are two factions whose only com-

mon interest would have been stopping Jesus. Interestingly, the dilemma that the Pharisees put to Jesus expresses the difference between the two factions. The Pharisees would've opposed the paying of taxes to the emperor, and the Herodians would've supported such an action. So Jesus, in the presence of each, is being asked by both to offend one or the other.

Jesus' answer is stunning. Jesus asks the Pharisees for "the coin used for the tax,"—the tax required payment in a Roman coin minted by Caesar. The fact they had such a coin suggested their intention was to pay the Roman tax. Jesus rightly calls them "hypocrites." He then says, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's." What Jesus is saying to the Pharisees is this: "The coin you own owns you. By your sympathy with the Herodians, whom you oppose, you violate the very principle by which you sought to trap me." The last part of Jesus' retort could well have been addressed to both factions: "Give to God what is God's."

Discussion

First, watch the 6-minute Opening the Word video reflection for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time on FORMED.org

In order to trap Jesus, the Pharisees partnered with the Herodians. Why was this such a tricky move?

According to the presenter, why must Christians be involved in the public square?

Digging Deeper: The Herodians

The Herodians were a political party at the time of Jesus who were distinguished from the two major parties, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, by being sympathetic to Herod the Great and his followers. The New Testament mentions two encounters with Jesus, one in Galilee and one in Jerusalem (Mark 3:6, 12:13;

About This Week's Video Presenter

Martha Fernández-Sardina is an in-



ternational bilingual communicator and ministry consultant, speaker and writer, preacher and teacher, and new evangelization trainer. As the founding Director of the Office for (New) Evangelization for the Archdiocese of San Antonio in Texas for close to seven years, Martha served parishes, schools, and various groups providing inspiring talks, practical training workshops, in-services, and weekly television and radio shows.

This *Opening the Word* reflection by FORMED.org has been printed with permission from Augustine Institute.

Download this week's *Opening the Word* prayer journal at FORMED.org

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

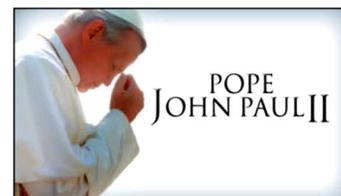
Pope John Paul II

Meet the Pope Who Captivated the World

In an Emmy-nominated performance by John Voight, the papacy of John Paul II comes to life. Celebrate Saint John Paul II's feast day October 22nd by following Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through the late days of his papacy as he touched millions, changed the face of the Church and the world, and defended the dignity of mankind.

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—Sally U, Manitoba, Canada

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 10/21

- 8:30am The Victims of Fires
James Carlisle Barringer
Manuel C. Serpa †
- 5:00pm Brielle Mandelenis
Angela Murrieta †
- 7:00pm Pedro Pacheco Ramos
Yolanda Millan Cruz †

Sunday 10/22

- 6:45am Virginia Tynan †
- 8:00am Iluminada Gallares †
- 9:30am Manuel Freitas †
Midge Bautista †
- 11:00am Stephen & Brandi Silva
- 12:30pm Cristina Cetina †
- 3:30pm Mass for Our Parish
- 6:00pm Jesus Munoz, Jr. †

Monday 10/23

- 8:30am Melanie Maher †
Gus & Lucile Beach †

Tuesday 10/24

- 8:30am Julie Mitkov
Crisanta Barra †

Wednesday 10/25

- 8:30am Paolo Monjes †
Marissa Kalchik
- 7:00pm Alan Flores †

Thursday 10/26

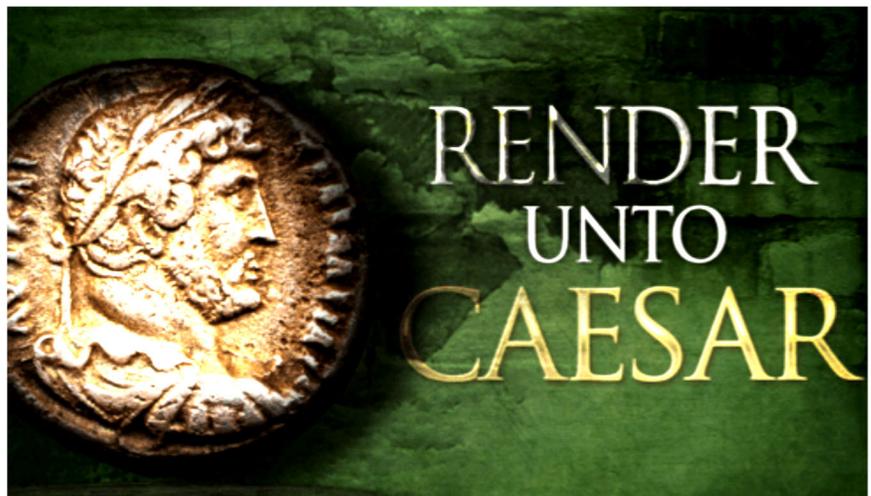
- 8:30am Mary Lamb †
Darita & Margarito Montana †

Friday 10/27

- 8:30am Sofia, Helen and Mike †
The Stanley Family
Mario Ledezma

To request a Mass intention, please visit the church office.

Prayers & Devotion



Today's Gospel is particularly important for us today who live in a world where Christianity is often being pitted against the government. Let us see how Jesus' teaching applies right now.

Prayer

Imagine that you are with the group listening to the Pharisees confront Jesus about paying the census tax. What do you expect him to say? When he says, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," are you surprised? Now think about your own life. What in your life rightly belongs to Caesar? Are you giving to Caesar what is Caesar's? What in your life belongs to God? Are you giving that to God? Which is easier to do: pay Caesar or pay God?

Resolution

As difficult as it may be, when you are paid this week, thank God that you are able to "render unto Caesar" by paying your taxes. Then set aside a donation to give to the Church or to the poor in order to "render unto God" as well.

Parish Prayer Requests

For the many victims of the wildfires, the repose of the souls of the dead, the emergency responders and all of their families and friends. May the Holy Spirit inspire the leaders who will coordinate recovery efforts, and may the generous hearts of the community be opened to help.

For Pat Thiessen who is recovering from surgery.
For Cheryl Ruth, who remains in a coma.

For the repose of the soul of John Joseph "Jack" Arena

Please send your prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ten Surprising Things That Happen

When You Go to Adoration More Often

1. **You develop a sense of awe and wonder**
There is nothing like the atmosphere of a quiet chapel to help you understand the truth of what is happening in Adoration. We are truly before Jesus Christ, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.
2. **You experience peace in other areas of your life**
It doesn't mean everything in our life will be perfect and without suffering, but Christ's peace means that we know that the storms of life can't shake us.
3. **You begin to look outwardly**
Spending time in Adoration connects us to the whole world – after all, we're spending time with the Creator of all things! More time praising and adoring God means you can look beyond your

- own concerns and see the needs of others in your life and in the world that we live in.
4. **You get bored sometimes**
There are going to be times when Adoration can feel anything but glorious. You get distracted, your mind begins to wander, you can hear someone else sniffing next to you. But that doesn't devalue or take away from the truth of what Adoration is. Our faith is more than feelings and God will still be working in you.
5. **But you become excited going to Adoration**
The more time you spend in Adoration discovering that God is a God who loves you and wants to spend time with you, the more you begin to actually want to go.

6. **Grace enters your life**
It's amazing how a simple act of committing to even a short time of regular Adoration makes such a huge difference to the rest of your life. You can carry that moment of being in His presence with you long after you've left the church or chapel. His grace sustains you in every moment, especially in moments of temptation.
7. **You realize how fortunate you are**
If it is as simple for you as getting in the car and driving to Adoration at church, or even walking to the chapel nearby, you realize how much you can take it for granted. There are those who would love



Continued on page 8...

Collection Report

We are so blessed to have generous parishioners who not only supported the Fall Festival, but who regularly give their offerings every week or month throughout the year. We simply could not go about Christ's mission for Livermore without you. Thank you.

To set up regular offerings, please visit FaithDirect.net

10/15/17 Collection	\$18,877.73
Month-to-Date	\$66,845.96
Month Goal	\$107,843.14
Percentage Reached	62%
Maintenance for Oct	\$10,021.50
Faith Direct for Oct	\$8,771.28

St Vincent de Paul 5th Sunday Collection: October 29

On July 30th, St. Vincent de Paul received \$6000.00 from the 5th Sunday Collection. The organization wants to thank all of you for your generosity. This money was used in so many ways to support the residents of Livermore, from feeding the homeless, to helping with rent and utilities for those whose income doesn't quite support the family. Recently, SVDP was able to help a homeless family with two small children stay in a hotel for a couple of nights. The parents were so happy that they started to cry.

October 29th is the next 5th Sunday. Let's see if our great Parish will again give to SVDP. Do you think we can beat that \$6000.00 mark?

The St Vincent de Paul Food Locker is open Monday—Thursday, from 7 to 8pm. If you have a had a bountiful harvest from your backyard garden, you can always bring your surplus to us. The clients really like the fresh fruits and vegetables. If you would like to serve God by serving the poor, we are always looking for volunteers. Please contact Paul at kuzmenko@att.net and leave your name and contact information. Again, thank you so much for your generosity.

Around the Parish



Our Knights of Columbus conducted their annual "Tootsie Roll Drive" after Mass and at numerous store locations in Livermore. Funds collected are for children with disabilities.



Our Knights of Columbus blood drive was a big success. Donors contributed 60 pints of blood to the Red Cross, doing their part to replenish the supply that has been recently depleted.



Golden Friends enjoyed a Hawaiian themed fun-filled lunch. Betty, Isabella, and Mary Mitchell danced the hula for us! Left to right: Clara George, Lyn Ivey (in background), Betty Fallon, Fr. Van, Isabelle Starr. Join us on 10/27 at the Rock House at 9:30 am.



Fr Van, Eric Hom, Alison Wilke and Carmine Gallo represented St Michael Parish and School with Bishop Michael Barber at the Catholic Charities of the East Bay luncheon. Parishes around the Diocese, together with Catholic Charities, help meet the needs of the most in need in our communities.



Deacon Bill blessed our beloved pets in celebration of the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.



We celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima with prayer and procession.

Share your pictures of ministries in action with us!

Email to TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com

This Week

MONDAY, OCT 23

St. John of Capistrano

Readings: Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 12:13-21

Events:

Bilingual Mass of Remembrance at 6:30 pm in the Church

THURSDAY, OCT 26

Readings: Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 12:49-53

Events:

WINGS "Meet a Muslim" Presentation with Moina Shaiq at 9:30 am

KofC Rosary at 6:30 pm in the Courtyard

Edge Middle School Ministry meets at 6:30 pm in the Youth Portable

SUNDAY, OCT 29

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Events:

St Vincent de Paul "5th Sunday" Collection

Loving the Lord with Our Mind

In his response to the Pharisees in the gospel reading, Jesus quotes the Shema, the great prayer from Deuteronomy 6:4, which begins, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" (RSV). However, Jesus subtly changes the wording. Instead of saying that we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and might, Jesus says we must love with our heart, soul, and mind. So what's the big deal? What's the difference between might and mind?

TUESDAY, OCT 24

St. Anthony Mary Claret

Readings: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

Events:

CounterPoint support group for friends of addicts at 7 pm, rm 22

FRIDAY, OCT 27

Readings: Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59

Events:

Golden Friends Prayer Luncheon at 9:30 am the Rock House. RSVP: Lyn at 925-565-3977.

All Fridays of the year are days of sacrifice. We abstain from meat or choose another act of penance or piety.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 25

Readings: Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8; Lk 12:39-48

Events:

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena at 6pm in the Chapel.

SATURDAY, OCT 28

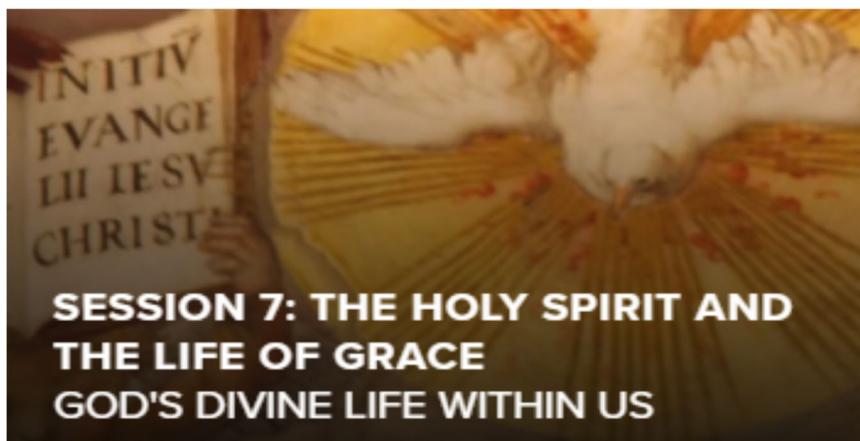
Ss. Simon and Jude

Readings: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16

Events:

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Spiritual Retreat at 11 am at St Raymond's.

Confession at 9:15 am and 3:45 pm in English, 6:15 pm in Spanish



Who is the Holy Spirit? How does the Spirit work in our lives and in the life of the Church? Why is it so important that we know and love him? Session 7 in our Parish Wide Symbolon Study explores the third person of the Trinity.

This week, watch the 30-minute video **Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, Session 7** Download the participant materials located just under the video for your own reflections or to discuss with a friend.

Access the Symbolon video study series free from any browser at FORMED.org. Get your free account using parish code **P4XNPZ**

Upcoming Events

All Saints

Holy Day of Obligation
Wed, Nov 1

Mass at St Michael's at 8:30 am, 10:00 am (School Mass), 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm (Spanish)

On All Saints, the Church honors every saint in heaven, known and unknown. Catholics are obliged to celebrate Mass on All Saints.

Plenary Indulgence

Nov 1—8

A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted each and every day from Nov 1 to Nov 8, when the faithful devoutly visit a cemetery and there pray, if only mentally, for the departed. Requirements: Receive the Sacrament of Confession, Eucharist, pray for the intentions of the Pope and have no attachment to sin.

Wonder Woman Family Movie Night

Fri, Nov 3 at 7 pm
At St Charles.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest

Sat, Nov 4, 9am-3pm

Come make simple dresses for girls in impoverished countries. We need help cutting, sewing, ironing etc. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron and board and scissors. If you can't make the sew fest, we have kits so you can sew at home! Call Suzanne at 925-352-8447

Family Mass

Sun, Nov 5 at 9:30 am

All St Michael School families, Faith Formation Families and young families of the parish are invited to celebrate Mass on Nov 5 at 9:30 am. It's a great opportunity to meet other families in the parish!

LLNL's HOME Campaign

Through December 1

The Helping Others More Effectively (HOME) Campaign is Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's payroll deduction giving program. LLNL employees can choose to give to charities, including St Michael Parish.

The HOME Campaign runs from the last Thursday in October through the first Friday in December. If you are an LLNL employee, please prayerfully consider choosing St Michael's in the HOME campaign.

4 STEPS for EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

- 1 RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF GOD**
15 MINS
Place yourself in the presence of Christ
- 2 THANKSGIVING**
15 MINS
Give thanks for all the blessings God has given you
- 3 PETITION**
15 MINS
Ask for the world, the people around you and your conversion
- 4 ATONEMENT**
15 MINS
Express your sorrow for the world's sins and yours

Continued from page 5...

to spend more time with Jesus in Adoration but who are house-bound, sick or busy parents. Then there are those around the world who actually risk their lives for the Eucharist, in places where they are persecuted for their faith.

8. You realize that God has a sense of humor

The more you are able to sit and let God speak to you (instead of spending all your time filling the silence with talking to Him), you'll find that God has a really good sense of humor. He likes a joke or two, and sometimes these moments are funny enough to make

you want to laugh out loud. Surprising, maybe, but don't the best fathers show you their love by affectionate good humor?!?

9. You want to go to Confession more

Confession allows us to experience the mighty boundless ocean that is God's mercy. His mercy swallows up all our sins and gives us a true kind of freedom, a freedom without fear, which allows us to make the leap into His love and goodness, complete with all His perfect plans for our life. Time and time again, going to Confession re-enforces the knowledge

that we are jumping into the arms of a father who loves us very much and "never tires of forgiving us". (Pope Francis).

10. You fall in love

Ultimately, you can't help this one! When you spend more time with an open heart in Adoration and just let Christ love you, then you'll fall in love too.

St Michael's Adoration Chapel is open 24/7.

Excerpted article printed with permission from Catholic-link.org



En un libro muy vendido, un niño pequeño, de quien se dice que murió y fue al cielo, y regresó, fue entrevistado y se le pidió que describiera al Espíritu Santo. Hizo una pausa y luego dijo: “Mmm, eso es algo muy difícil.” Creo que todos nos podemos identificar con esto. Describir al Espíritu Santo es difícil. Todos tenemos imágenes mentales de Jesús y de Dios Padre, pero, ¿del Espíritu Santo. . .? Tal vez te imaginas a una paloma, como el Espíritu que apareció en el Bautismo de Jesús; o lenguas de fuego o de un viento recio, como en el primer Pentecostés. Pero a pesar de cómo te imagines al Espíritu, probablemente sea más misterioso que las otras dos Personas de la Santísima Trinidad. No es extraño, entonces, que aún los Cristianos de toda la vida puedan a veces tener problemas sobre cómo relacionarse y orar al Espíritu Santo. Sin embargo, es el Espíritu Santo, la tercera Persona de la Santísima Trinidad, el vínculo de amor entre el Padre y el Hijo, quien habita en nuestros corazones y nos permite llegar a ser hijos e hijas del Dios vivo. En la lección de esta semana, vamos a aprender más sobre quién es el Espíritu Santo, cómo el Espíritu actúa en nuestras vidas y en la vida de la Iglesia, y por qué es absolutamente necesario que lleguemos a conocer y amar al Espíritu si vamos a entrar en relación plena con la Trinidad. En resumen, vamos a aprender, en las palabras de la oración tradicional, por qué necesitamos al Espíritu Santo en nuestras vidas para “renovar la faz de la tierra.”

ESTA SESIÓN CUBRIRÁ :

- Cómo el Espíritu Santo edifica, anima y santifica a la Iglesia, llevando las almas a la comunión con Dios, para que den frutos y den testimonio de Cristo
- Cómo el Espíritu Santo es el vínculo de amor entre el Padre y el Hijo, y cómo el amor de Dios ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo
- Los dones y frutos del Espíritu Santo
- Las maneras en que el Espíritu Santo nos santifica, o nos hace santos
- Cómo somos salvados y la relación entre la fe y las obras en este proceso de santificación



LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- Sólo a Dios debemos adorar; al Dios que nos llama por nuestro nombre (Isaías 45:1, 4-6).

Salmo -- Da al Señor gloria y honor (Salmo 96 [95]).

Segunda lectura -- Hemos recibido el Evangelio no sólo de palabras sino por el poder del Espíritu Santo (1 Tesalonicenses 1:1-5b).

Evangelio -- Devuelve al César lo que es del César y a Dios lo que es de Dios (Mateo 22:15-21).

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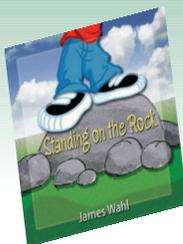
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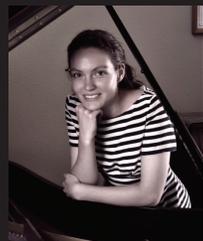
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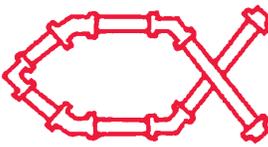
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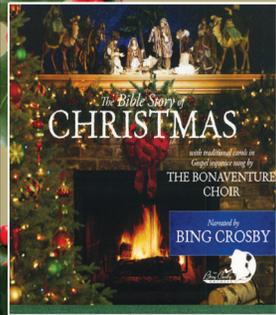
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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

Sign Language | Lenguaje por Señas

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the church |

Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English

6:15 pm en español

1st & 3rd Wed in the Convent Chapel,
at 2:30 pm in English

Anointing of the Sick |

Unción de los Enfermos

1st Saturday after 8:30 am Mass or by
appointment: 925-447-1585 |

1er sábado después de las 8:30 am Misa
o con cita previa: 925-447-1585

Eucharistic Adoration |

Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours access
code, call 925-980-4826 |

24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de acceso
después de las horas, llame al 925-980-4826

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm (closed during lunch)

Sun 8:30 am—12:30 pm

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

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Varallo, Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay
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School Front Office	925-447-1888
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Priscilla Stutzman, DRE	925-667-4097
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